

THE
Notable Hystory of
two faithfull Louers named
Alfagus and Archelaus.
Whererin is declared the true sygnes of
Amytie and frendisshyp. Much
pleasantte and delectable
to the Reader.
Translated into Englyssh meeter
by Edward le ynges,
with a Preface of Deu-
nytion of Freynd-
shyppe to the
same.

Q^uichas are troublis in publyque affayres;
About commyn welthes by offyces and carers:
In faithfull frendisshyp can never abyde,
So; so sayth Lully the thinge hath ben tryde.

Impryned at London in Fleetes
Crete beneath the Conduyt at the sygne
of I^o. John Evangelist, by Tho-
mas Colwell.

Anno Domini. 1574.

W^m. Waller. D^r. 1574.

HT
In 1800 there were 31000000

жестілдің түрлілігінің міндеттесінен тұзандағы
жеке тәсілдердің жаңыларынан да жариялана.

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4721 *Micrococcus*

¶ Edward lenynges to syngynge syngyngh
the Reader.



He wyes哲osopher Arystotele
both late,
Freindship is a vertue most incompa
rable,
And Tully doth his wordes not de
naye,

Sayenge it is a thinge most commendable
Both fyre and sure, nothing deuyable
For freindship without vertue in no man can remayne
Thus the wyle哲osopher Tully telleth plaine,

¶ Tully defyneth freindship on this wise also
Sayenge it is none other thing at all
But a perfette consent of thinges so to know
Wher as well to God as to men both besyall,
Benevolence and charite imbraced of great and small
Nothing is more comodisus while men on earth do live
Then this except sapience whiche God to man doth gyne.

¶ Then which defynicion is exelent and true
For in God and all thinges which of God doth come
Nothing of more estemacion doth ensue
Then Loue called in latin Amor all and some,
Amicitia desending and coming of Eum
In english called Freindship which taken a wate
The life of man wyl soone fall in decale.

¶ No house can stand in quiet peace and resfe
No seilde can bryng his fruyte in due season
If hatred and enuie doth dwell both East and Weste,
All men may iudge then perfectly by reason
Fynally of man is iudged by discretion
He semeth from the worlde to take a way the sume,
That strom mans life wold freindship vane vndon.

To the Reader.

¶ Byt frendshyp then to mans lyfe is so ytre
When all other vertues it doth far excell,
And o:ely in good men remaines, thys is sure,
From whose harte and mynde no patne male excell:
But sy2mly and sore within them doth dwelle,
So that therof none curyll may proceede
¶ The cause of thyng which curyll is in deede.

¶ Betweene all men that be good can not be Amis
Alwayes abydyng without some decente,
Except they seme both of on qualitie,
Fourmed all a lyke by natures pretence:
In maners and study both equally bente,
And specially in maners, soz that is the thyng
Which knytteth the hartes both of one lykinge.

¶ For Cravyspe and Assabyltie be laudable both
And qualties bightye to be had in este macyon,
So is Deuerytie and Placabyltie sozsooth
Magnysprence and Lyberalgtie is of the same fassion
And yet Frugalitie by all wyle mens Dracyon
Which sheweth a lyfe both moderate and sober,
Is hygher extolled then any of the other.

¶ Yet wheare these vertues and qualties bee
Deperately a sundre amongst persones mane,
Assembed together by tranquilitie
May well be parfecte concorde frulie,
¶ If frendshyp is there sydome berelye,
Or that which the one for a vertue imbraceith,
The other contemninge his minde, it neglecteth.

And there wheare descension of mindes doth appere
By reason can stande no parfecte Amysie,
¶ Byt frendship is a consent entyre,
Of will and desires in ons like quantytie:
¶ Therefore is sydome seene for a certaintie,
That frendshyp betwene such parsons shold bee,
Which in theys desyres can nothinge agree.

¶ Whose

To the Reader.

¶ Those which be liberal of harts and deede
Withholoyng nothinge from them whom they loue
Wherby increase of loue doth proceede,
And in them that be constante and wyl not remoue
Is neuer mystruse nor suspition to proue,
¶ ne anye surmyng of euill reporte
Can drawe they; affection from them in any sorte.

¶ And by this thinge is freindship made sure
Parpetually for ever both firme and stable,
But if like stude o; learnyng procure
The y; mindes in one thinge to be delectable :
Joyeing to those vertues agreeable,
Freindship much rather doth happen to stande
By mutuall agreement with faithfull bande.

¶ Nothinge euill o; vrycious to man
In faithfull freindship doth happen to bee,
The first election made of freindes than
Receneth all the importance truely,
Wherfore it wolde be done nothing rashely,
But with a longe proose and great deliberacion
Desertyng parscaly his former trade and sahyon.

¶ For oft times by fortune it comith to passe
A man now in welthe and great prosperytie,
Is brought in a momit much woorre then he was
Standinge in peryll and great extremytie:
Freindshyp oft times then faileth verely
As Duytes sweete sentece to vs both declare
Hereafter folowing with woes good and sayre.

¶ Whylste fortune thee sauozeth, freindes thou hast plenty
The time being troublous thou art alone,
And Culvers haunt houses made whyte and dayntis
To the ruinous Towers almost commeth none :
Of Emotes innmerable, bnneth thou findest one
In emptie barnes whare sayleth substaunce,
Happeneth no freinde in whoni is assurance.

To the Reader.

¶ But if a monge manie one chuse to be found
In all cares of fortune hys freyndshyp to holde,
The prayse of hys name shall highly rebounde
And is more of valem then syluer or golde,
Or any comodytie that els can be tolde,
Of kyndred and blood none is so commendable
As one parfecte freynde in notbyng deceyuable.

¶ For Tully saith from kyndred and lyne
Beneuolence may soone be taken awaie,
But freyndshyp whiche never at naught doth repine
Can never be leuener by night nor by daye:
So though beneuolence in kyndred doth staye,
Yet the name of kyndred doth alwayes stand styll
But take it from freyndshyp and cleane it doth spyll.

¶ I am not able of freyndshyp to shewe
A true definycyon in every thinge,
Though all a whole yere my wyt I bestowe
In such like sentences still wrytinge,
With manie auncient Hystoryes searchyng
Wherin I shulde fynde such stoor to indyte
That in a large booke I scarce coulde them wryte.

¶ But gentle Reader I priae you haue pacience
In this malabour not worthy of praise,
Acceptinge well my mynde and dilligence,
Occupyeng my pen thus on many idle daies:
Wherby some profit doth come manie waies,
For unto all men it sheweth the vertue
Of amytie and freyndshyp parfede and true.

¶ Many yonge wyts desyre for to read
Hystoryes olde, in Mecter delectable,
Of dyuers good Knyghtes and such as be dead,
Leauyng behynde them a fame much commendable,
Yet is the readyng therof not bing profitable,
But in this small treatise a man maie beholde,
How freyndshyp is better then syluer or golde.

¶ The

To the Reader.

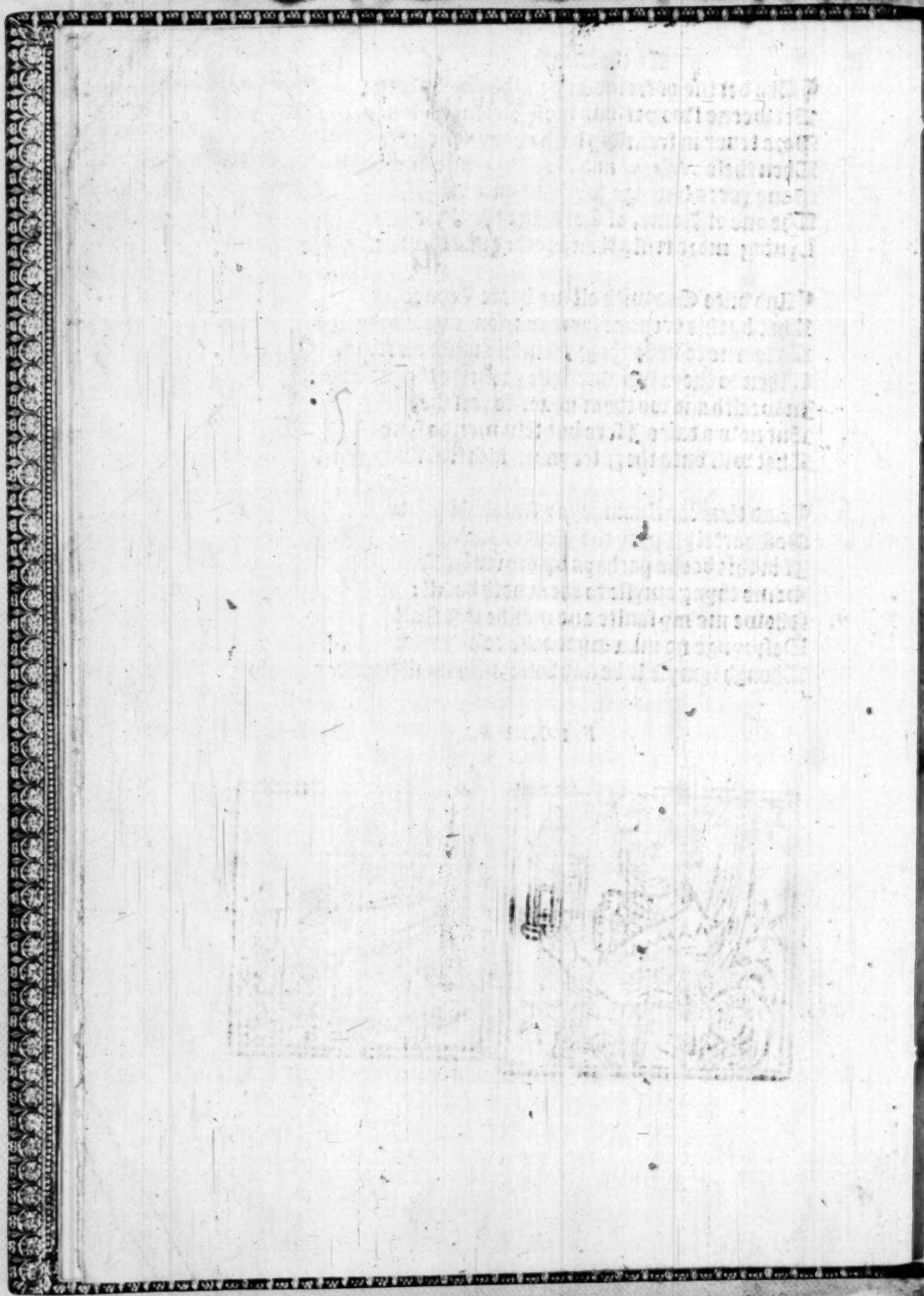
The vertue of freindshyp in this shalbe scene
Betweene two parsons most worthy of fame,
More truer in freindship hath never none bene
Then these *Alfagus* and *Archelanus* by name :
Many yeres lyuyngge wythout anis blame,
The one of Rome, of Carthage the other
Lyuing more truly then brother and brother.

And unto God with all my harte I praye
That by this treatise some may ensample take
To learne to kepe theyr freindship night and daie,
When to theyr freindes lyke yromysle they do make :
In wealth and wo them never to forslake,
But now a daies I seere but few men do lyue
That will unto theyr freyndes such freindshyp gyue.

And thus concludinge my simple Preface
Most hartely I pray the Readers all,
If in this booke perhaps by my trespassse
Some thyng amyse to them doth befall :
Showe me my faulte and mende it I shall
Desyryng no man my wozke to disdayne
Though sympyle it be and done with small payne.

F I N I S.





C The famous hystory of Alfaugus
and Archelaus. Wherin is decla-
red the true sygure of Imp-
tyme and freindshyp.

Cap. i.

1420



A Rome sumtyme a knyghte
dyd dwell,
Both noble, wise and good,
Hys stocke of aunciente Ro-
mannes were,
And not of Rascall blood:
Lyppodus hyste thys noble man
for so mein dyd hym call,
Beloued he was of all folkes in
the Cyttie, great and small.

CA Ladye had thys noble knyghte
of worthy stocke and fame,
Betweene whom God a sonne dyd sende
Alfaugus was hys name:
Acomely Chylde and sayre he was
as any man myght see,
In learnyng apte to every thyng
whych taught to hym myght bee.

CThis knyght therfore when as his sonne
to lawefull petes ded growe,
He thought how he by vertuous trade
myght make hym wysdome knowe:

W.i.

But

The Historie of

But at the laste by misyng longe
he vnderstood right well,
Of Cartagye that noble place
much p[re]aise he harde men tell.

How that was cheche and fountayne of
all wisdome and all gracie,
Next vnto God all prudence came
and doctrine from that place:
And noble men from far aboue
theyr Chyldren thereto sent,
And Lypodus this knight therfore
euen of the same intent.

His sonne Altagus brought soorth with
to Cartagye, that hee,
Myghterne good letters and also
a Scholler thereto bee:
And hosted him with one who was
an auncyent man and wise,
A Senatour of the Cittie who
good councell dyd deuyse.

Of Cartagye that noble place
and Cyttie of great faine,
The cheifest ruler then was hee
and Olympus was bys name:
Thys Olympus had a sonne also
whom Archelaus men dyd call,
In euery parte both hande and face
like Altagus was hee all.

They

Alfagus and Archelaus.

¶ Theyz age was equall both as one
agreeinge iust and ryght,
Theyz faces so proporcioneid both
a lyke in all mens sight:
That no man coulde deserne the one
and say this is the other,
They were not knowē but by their names
of father nor of mother.

¶ And as these two ponde gentlemen
agreid lyke in lyvynge,
Alfagus Archelaus unto
and Archelaus to him:
So in shorte space acquayntaunte grewe
the one so to the other,
That inwardē loue oprest theyz bastes
and eche one called brother.

¶ Theyz willes and Appetites both in one
so God had congluated,
That never since the woldē began
like them was none created:
At one tyme they together went
to study and to learnyngē,
At one tyme they at meales also
tooke both a lyke refreschynge.

¶ They both delyghted in one kynde
of doctrine, and therby
They profyted and were therwith
both learned equally,

The Hystoore of
And to conclude, together they
with learnyng so increased,
That in shorte tyme to them myght be
in Carthage none compared.

Cat length deseast Olympus (which was)
Archelaus father dere,
For whom Altagus as well as hee
dyd mourne with heauy cheere
But then Archelaus after that
his father was deseased,
To all men knownen he was wþt goodes
and ryches much increased.

Cwherefore to hym was profered
ryche matyges many a won,
With maydens fayre and bryght, but hee
set not hys minde theron:
And he then beinge rype of yeres
of parsonage with all,
Byght well be set in every lymme
a comely man and tall.

Cwherefore his freindes and knyfmen all
exhorted hym that hee,
After this counsaille set his mynde
to wed some fayre Lady:
To the intente his lyneshee
myght so increase ther by,
But this yonge man his hart had set
so on þhilosophy.

And

Alfagus and Archelans.

CAnd on his freind Alfagus to
his loun he set so sure,
That if he shuld mary he thought
it colde not syll indure,
But that he shuld leue off from one
and cleane another to,
Wherfore longe tyme he did delaye
the thinge with much a do.

CInd would not consent to theyr mynde
for ought that they colde saye,
How be it, still they woulde not rest
to moue hym daye by daye,
To mary one that myght hym please
and gyt some Childe her by,
Which myght inherit and haue his lande
when he shuld chaunce to dye.

CSo at the last he graunted, because
hys freindes on hym so soze,
Euen by importunat callynge on
syll dayly more and more,
And partly by the aduyce and mynde
of Alfagus hys freind dore,
And by dysyre of many mo
he drew theyr purposenere.

CConsensynge so to mary one
in whom he myght delighe,
And in all thinges unto hys mynde
ryght pleasant in hys syghts

B.iii.

With

The Hystorye of
Wytch wbych wordes all hys freindes & hym
was wondrous glad in hart,
And buslyp for hym a none
eche one dyd shewe hys part.

¶ And sought wheare they myght fynde a
for hem right faire and good, (mayde
Of luke yeres unto hym, and of
some worthy house and blood,
So longe they sought that at the last,
a mayde they dyd espye,
Of parsonage, maners, and in age
In excelent bewise.

¶ A comely damsell and a tall
In equall statore prght,
With eres as graye as glas, and skynne
most lyke to snowe was whyte:
Of equali yeres swēe was to him
In vertuous maners taught,
Of noble blood full riche also
no better myght be sought.

¶ Thys Ladye thought they good, for such
a gentleman of kynde,
They thought her apte for hym, and hee
In her myght please hys mynde:
When Archelaus freyndes and eke
the maydens freyndes also,
Had talked all theri minde, and when
eche one theri wyls dyd knowe.

End

Alsagus and Archelans.

CAnd on the couenauntes were agreed
how the mariage shoulde bee,
They gane Archelans chounsaile that
the mayden he shuld see:
And ofte repayze to her, so that
he myght ryght well at ease,
Knowe with his hart if that shee wyth
her beautie myght hym please.

AArchelans goeth to see his Ladie,
Who pleaseith him right well. Hee
carieth Alsagus with him to see her,
who is so taken in her loue that hee
lyeth sickle with intollerab-
le paine. Cap.it.

After the counsaile of his freindes
Archelans did agree,
And went without delaye anone,
hys Ladye for to see:
Who in all partes hee found to bee
so pleasaunt to hys mynde,
That if hee shoulde seeke all the wold
none better coulde hee finde.

Cnor to his hartes desyre hee thoughte,
myght be founde one so meete,
Wherfore anone with louynge wordes
to her hee spake full sweete:

And

The Hystorye of

And sayde sayze Lady is your mynde
to hane me for your make,
And can you fynde within your hatt
all other to forfake.

Chaue onely I, and cleave to mee
how say you Lady bryght?
Shee answere d hym, (as sayd) for sooth
all that is in my myght,
I am content to do your mynde
my hertes desyre is so,
And thus when they had talked longe
and eche they loue dyd knew.

CArchelous dyd returne agayne
to Altagus hys freinde,
No loue of Lady in the worlde
myght take hym from hys mynde:
yet often tymes when to studi they
together both dyd go,
Many tymes Archelous when
Altagus dyd not know.

CStale secretly away, and to
hys Lady did resorte,
That he with her in pastyme good
myght make some pleasant spayt:
And notwithstanding the great loue
whiche to hys freynd he bare,
yet ofte tymes to hys Lady he
on this wyle dyd repayze.

CBut

Alfagus and Archelau.

¶ But at the laste when swamefastnes
surmounted in his brest,
Wþthin his harte he coulde not hane
at no tyme quiet rest,
Untyll hys secret tourneys were
vnto Alfagus tolde,
Wherfore anone these wordes hee spake
and said with courage bolde.

¶ Dere freinde Alfagus so it is
my freindes on mee did lye,
As you do knowe ryght well ynough
to wed soine fayre Ladie:
That so I myght increse the stocke
of mee and of my father,
Howe be it (god dooth knowe) with you
to byde yet had I rather.

¶ What then, it is so nowe that I,
haue chosen a Ladye bryght,
Who to my harte in all thynges is
ryght pleasaunt in my sight:
And ofte tymes haue I stolne awaye,
from you vnknoþone till nowe,
When as wee were at study both
and ye wþþ noþyng hewe.

¶ To goo and see her whom I loue
Thee doth mee so delyghte,
For wþth her beaulte my whole harte
is fyred daye and nyght:

C.i.

To

The histoyre of

To morowe therfore will I go
about this tyme and tyde,
And you with mee shall go that theare
to gether wee maye abyde.

Can houte or twayne and passe the tyme
wyth some solace and playe,
Where as you maye beholde and see
my Ladys frethe and gare:
Wlfagus answered hym and sayd
I am ryght well content,
To go with you my freind I thinke
the tyme no better spent.

Cand sayne I woulde beholde the mayd
you prayse so much to me,
For since you spake fyrt of her I
haue longed her to see:
Thus when they talked had awhyle
the nyght on them did drowne,
Wherfore to rest they went anon
when besy they tyme they sawe.

Cthus when the darknes had his course,
and Phebus beames so ryght,
The restles Sonne I meane did shewe
wypon the yearth same lyght:
The morayng sonne, w schininge beames
all landes hath ouer spred,
And from the skyes the droppynge shade,
of nyght aware was fled.

Wlfagus

Alfagus and Archelaus.

Alfagus rose, and longed to see
the mayden bryght of heve,
Iryse vp Archelaus he sayde
that I maye go with you:
To see her whom you praysed so
my harte is very fayne,
Cuen nowe anon Archelaus sayde
we will go thither both swayne.

Where with he rose and so they bothe
anon to gether did go,
But how they sped, if you wyll heare
I wyll unto you sho:
Forth goeth these two young gentlemen
and when one houre was spent,
They came wheras the mayd dyd dwell
and into the house they went.

Who of the Damsell was anon
receaued joyfullye,
But as soone as Alfagus had
vpon her set his eye:
Beholdyng her most comlye face
with parsonage deuure,
Adorned all in bewtie, and
In respectable pure.

Her lyppes as red as anpe Rose
nothing there was aitys,
With sober countenaunce myced all
with maydens shamesastnes:

C.1f.

Her

The Histore of
Her taulke so sweete and pleasaunt was
for Alcasus to beholde.
That with the syght of her aone
hys sprytes were very colde.

Hys harte was pased thorow out
blynde Copyds darte with all,
And wyth whiche wound for deadly smart,
almost on sounde did fall:
So verment and so ferre his payne
increased more and more,
Wyth styll beholdynge of that mayde,
which stood hys eyes before.

Chat nerther the great studye of
Pdylosophy, nor yet
The remembraunce of his most dere freinde,
Archelaus any whyt:
Could once mythdawre that vnynde loue
out of his hatte and breste,
But more and more his payne dyd growe
not knowyng what waye to rest.

CBut that of force hee must needes loue
and that inordynatelye,
That Lady whiche Archelaus his freinde
had chosen to marry:
All be it wyth incredyble paynes
he kept hys thoughtes vnkowne,
Untyll they both returned were
and to their lodgynge gone.

The

Alfagus and Archelous.

Che mysterable Alfagus then
wyth wandrrage bymselfe a syde,
As though in secret studye her
intended to abyde,
All tormentend in sorowe and care
wyth loue oppressed sore,
Upon his bed hee layed him downe
tormentend more and more.

CRebukyng there him selfe of moche
unkynde and spytfull hate,
For with the syght of that sayre mayde
whych hee had seene of late:
Hee had conspyred such great euyll
agaynst his frende so dere,
Who had hym loued so wonderous well
in faythfulnes many a yere.

Cglas what euyll sy me (quoth hee)
was it when I was borne,
Glas for comynge to thy place
why had I not forsworne:
Alas my fater, wherfore brought
you mee here to thy place?
Why dyd you not keepe mee at home
out of thy wretched case.

Cglas that ever I dyd acquaynt
my selfe wyth one so true,
As you my freind Archelous are
but I agayne to you,

The Epistole of

Most lyke a brutyshe beast bonynde
From Nature gone awrye.
And haue deserued of your part,
great hattred to employe.

CAnd w^t those wordes deepe sighes & sore,
out from hys harte hee sente,
That euer hee came to Athennes
oft tymes hee dyd repente:
Thus syll in dolour and in care
he tumbled and he toste,
That lytle lacked it of hys hart
to be in peces brast.

CBut unto no man durst he once
Dysclose his secret sore,
So that at length most greuous paines
increased more and more:
And forced hym wold hee or not
Syll on his bed to lye,
Receauyng nought wherwith he myght
have hym sustayned bye,

CNo sleape at all nor rest hee tooke
no sustaunce nor foode,
He wold receave wherwith hee myght
have done hys bodye good:
That hee so feble was and faynt
so weake of lyvynge wþt all,
That in hys legges, hys bodye to beare
no strenghe therewas at all.

Achelaus

Alfagus and Archelaus.

Archelaus goeth to see Alfagus,
Who lyeth sick for love to his hōuse
Alfagus confesseth all the cause of his
sycknes, greatly repro-
nyng hym selfe of
bukynnes.

Cap. iii.

Archelaus was tolde a non
parte of Alfagus case,
How he full sick to bed was gone
and almost in dispayre;
Wyth whiche wordes he was soze abouit
and went forthwith to see,
How his deere freinde Alfagus dyd,
and what his payne myght bee.

But when he did approch the place
where as Alfagus laye,
Beholdeynge there his molt deere freinde
in such paynfull arraye:
The red Rose colour in his face
which was wont to appeere,
All tourned into sallow pale
with wan and beaute cheere.

Alis red lippes pale and almost blacke
his eye lyds suncke full lowe,
That sharre beholbyng in his face
he coulde his visage know.

He

The Hystorye of
He myght from wepyng scarce restrayne
the teaes by force out braste,
But then remembryng hym agayne
restrayned at the laste.

Cfeare leaste he thoughte suche sorowfull
night enst his freind anoy. (sight
Wherfore hee turned backe agayne
hys countenaunce vnto ioye:
Comfortyng hys deere freind in all
that ever hee myght do,
Despyng hym and sayd howe came,
thys great dysease in you.

CAnd why haue you byn so vnynde
not shewyng me att all,
Of this dysease whiche vnto you,
of late tyme dyd besall:
But thus vnyndly and vnewysse
to seeke your owne decaye,
When as I myght by knowyng therof
haue sought some helpe and waye.

CIf any thynges for syluer or golde
to helpe you myght be bought,
I woulde not haue my selfe till all
thys regyon I had sought:
And though that it shoulde coste mee all
the substance I coulde make,
yet woulde I thynde it well bestowed
to spende it for your sake.

CWryth

Alfagus and Archelans.

¶ With which woordes then the mortall
renued more and more, (sighes
Within Alfagus harte, and he
began to weepe full soze:

So that abundauntlie the teates
downe from his eyes did fall,
And many a sorowfull syghe bee sent
out from, his harte with all.

¶ The which when Archelans saw
he coulde no more forbeare,
But was resolued to teates a non
his harte all fyxed in care:
And sayd Alfagus most dere friend
Do not your mynde delaye,
But we weare all and euerie deale
most hartely I you pray.

¶ Alas whye are you so unkynde
that you will not disclose,
your secret sicknes vnto mee
when as I did suppose:
you would not haue kept backe from mee
no secrete thyng at all,
for I woulde haue bid nought from you
what souer myght befall.

¶ Therfore I pray you let me know
what greevous Payne you haue,
That I may seeke some helpe with haste
you from the death to save:

D. i.

for

The historye of

For nothing is to me so dere
nor precious in my syght
But for your sake hee wyl anon
depart with it forth ryght.

CAlthough myne owne lyfe I shold lose
It wold I not delay,
But runne and go all that I myght
for your helpe nyght and day:
The wchch wordes when Alfaugus hadde
and saue the mone and greefe,
Mich his deere sciende arthelaws made
to seeke for his relefe.

Call blis syng and in shamefast wyse
by force as then constrainyd,
Unto his friend his talz he tolde
and in this wyse complayned
My most deere friend and faythfull mate
leare of your faythfullynnde,
Call backe agayne the wordes you spake
some helpe for mee to fynde.

Cand rather slaye mee where I ly
drawe out your knyfe therfore,
Dyspatch my dayes that I may see
the heighe of heauen nowoze:
Most mysterable wretch and Craytofales
to you my felende am I,
And of all men vpon the Earth,
most wortyng for to dye.

102

Alfagus and Archelans.

Cfor lyke as god by hys great power
hath formed vs as one,
All lyke in everye forme and part,
for men to looke vpon:
So hath he made out myndes agree
in every thynge alake,
for looke what one of vs would haue
the other thet doth seeke.

COur myndes and apetyces are as one
they differ nought at all,
I thynke that never wþþ no men
lyke friendshyppe dyd besall:
And now so soone (alas I say)
so soone this loue is gone,
Good friendshyppe is excludid and
of reason there is none.

CNo doctrine doth anayle, nor man
in hys dome may not truse,
Nor no sydelytys in a friende
in this case maye be iuste:
þea Archelans the great truse
Whycþ you on me dyd laye,
Hath caused me to conspyre
agaynste you nowe this daye.

C(I las agaynste you my deere friend)
to do thys tþþng vñeyght,
How haue I ben intangled with
scyne foule enuyous spþight:

D.ii.

What

The Histoyre of

What thyng was in your mynde alaſ
when wyrdoine was awyue,
Why tolde you me of that fayre mayde
whiche is ſo ferre and gay.

Can you haue chosen her to wifte
(alaſ) why did you ſe
Why had you not left me at home
but let me wyth you ge
(Alas I ſave) where was your wifte
remembryng not at all,
The great fragilitie of our loue
and matieres bonde wyth all.

CWhat neede you haue regarde of me
what pleasure you dyd fynde,
In the beholdyng of her whom
you loued in your mynde:
Why would you haue me ſe her whom
your ſelue could not beholde,
But with the beutie of her face
your loue to her had tolde.

Cyour mynde was fyred and your harte
was rauyſhed her to ſee,
And yet for that in all this thryng
you had no mynde of mee:
(Alas why dyd you ſo forget
and coulde not thynke vpon
That both our wills and apetyces
hath byn alwayes as one.

for

Alsagus and Archelaus.

Cfor alwayes that which in your eyes
was plasaunt for to see,
Hath alwayes bry in every parte
in lyke sorte unto mee:
What neede more wordes Archelaus for
your truste in me I saye,
Hath caused me with vnykynde loue
to be intrapt this daye.

CThe raynes and plasaunt beames most
ensuyng from her eyne, (saye)
Whom you haue chosen for to loue
hath peart thys hart of myne:
Mea the remembraunce of her and
her vertues manysold,
Hath strouken me with a deadlye wound
and made my hart full colde.

CSo that I do despise nought els
but lyke an vnykynde wretche,
I myght departe out of this lyfe
this myserpe to dispatche:
Is one not worthye to haue lyfe
and felowshyp wryth you,
My most deere frende whiche alway hath
ben unto me so truce.

CBut I haue ben to you vnykynde
(alas) why shuld I lyuer
And wth those wordes out from his harte
full heauye sygnes dyd gyue:

D.iii. Desolned

The Vyse or
Desolued all with teares great stoe
which from his eyes did runne,
Concluyng these his woordes in care
as he had them begunne.

AArchelaus accuseth hym selfe of
follye. He renounceth his vertue that
he hath in the Lady to Altagus
and sheweth him the way howe
hee shall haue her to his
wyfe, unwares to
all his friendes.
Cap. iii.

Ahen Altagus made an ende
and had confessed all,
Howe the syght of hys faire mayd
what Payne dyd hym befall:
Hys deere friend Archelaus then
as nothyng discontente,
So; yet astoyned at the thyng
in whiche his friende was nise.

ABut with a merye countenaunce,
Altagus did imbrace,
He kyssed hym and on this wyse
his woordes soorthwith did place:
Why friende Altagus at your harte
is this same all the greefer
And had you thought within your harte
there could be no relife.

glas

Alcas and Archelans.

Clas why were you so knynde
that re wold not declare,
The cause of thys your payne to me
but is your herte it bare:
Clas why keepe you of so long
and could not let me kno,
Why wer you so knynde to keepe
your secret mynd me fro.

CI do confess my folly here
wherwith I am attaynte,
you haue disclosed my fond wyt
to me in your couplaynt:
For the wytne unto you the mayde
woin I chose to my wytse,
Idyd remember not hyng in
the nature of our lyfe.

Coer how our myndes and spetykes
in all thynges doth agree,
Noer yet the knytie of our hertes,
reinembred was of mee:
Wherfore it is no man but I
which hath done all this ill,
Sutelpe I can not well excuse
my selfe by reasons shill.

Coer who of ryght can proue that you
have trespassed at all,
When wyt the inutile darte of loue
your harte was strooke wyt all:

Why

The Vyssorye of
Why thynke you I am such a foole
which can not understande,
The myghtre stroake of Venus powre
whom loue doth take in hande.

Cfor where shée lyseth for to shew
the vpoilent course of care,
To presse the harte oportunatlye
with panges shée doth not spare:
Hauē not you well cysled when
to death you are neere brought:
And thus in tormentes for to lase,
that apetyte you haue sought.

CWhat more unforunate loue of you
may I requye then,
More faythfull loue in all the worlde
hath never ben of men:
And shoud I seeke for to expell
that thyng whch god hath wrought
Seth shē, predestinate was to you
before I of her thought.

CIf I shoud so thynke of this thyng
my wyl were spent in bayne,
What were my studye all my lyfe
but foolyshe and no gayne:
Shoulde I seeke for the prudente arte
Phylosophye to knowe,
Nay, nay, Alfangus in my harte
let never god do so.

But

Alfagus and Archelans.

¶ But surely I confesse in dede
to loue the mayde as well,
As any man possible may
which wyl domes arte can tell:
And tooke moze pleasure in my harte
her beuty to beholde,
Then in my landes my father lefte
my spynel or my goulde.

¶ The which you know doth much abouē
in valuer for to be,
yet at my harte they are not halfe
so pleasaunt unto me:
But now I know within your harte
her loue surmounteth moze,
Then five tymes it hath done in me
of all the kyng before.

¶ Yes without measure in your harte
I know the darte doth stinge
Of ragyng loue but shold I binke
that were wanton lustyng:
Or suddayne aentyte of your mynde
delightyng in solace,
Haue I not knownen the manner of
your lyfe in every place.

¶ How you were honest good and wylle
in every kynde of waye,
Wayne dalliance & sond toyes bneete
your bse was not to playe:

C.1.

S. ball

The Historye of

Shall I imagin then in you,
mallis, discit or quyle,
Syth you and I haue fostered ben
together of longe whyle.

Even from our chyldhood vnskyll nowe
yet could I never see,
But that you haue byn gentle sweete
and friendelype unto mee:
Betweene vs twayne was never stryfe
synce one the other knewo,
But still agreed in euerpe parte
to lyue lyke bretheren trewe.

May godforbid that noble bande
of friendshippe whiche hath ben,
Alfagus and Archelans harte
enclosed all within:
To be suspected anye deale
of hatred and disperte,
Or any fantasye of the mynde
Should presse my head vntyght.

Wherby the honorabile loue whiche is
betweene vs all and some,
Myght byndred bee in ante parte
the mountenauice of a crome:
Nay, nay, Alfagus it is so
as I before haue sayde;
For by selectiali power deuyne
you poynted were that mayde.

God

Alfagus and Archelous.

¶ God had apoynted her to you
when syrte he gave her lyfe,
That only shee should be your loue
your Ladye and your wyfe:
For such a feruent loue as this
oppresteth not the harte,
Of anye man vertuous and wyse
wyth suche an earneste smarte.

¶ But by a pronydence dewyne
wheare at if I shold seeke,
To make resistaunce anye deale
to have the thyng I leke:
I shold not onely be vniuste
agaynſt my friend most trewe,
Witholdinge that thyng whiche of ryght
belongeth vnto you.

¶ But also be repugnaunte frome,
goddes highe determinacion,
Iduaunsyng vp my harte therin
to make a confutacion:
Whiche thyng shall not befounde in me
by helpe of god with all,
Therefore Alfagus my deare frende
Dysmay you not at all.

¶ Of this the chaunce of loue now syrte
within your harte to stande,
But isounlye do now receave
the roake of louers bande:

C.it.

For

The Pittore of

For I am not byng discontente
wyth this my sudden chaunce,
But merueylynglye with feruent ioy
my hart it doth aduaunce.

CSyth that it is my chaunce for you
a Ladpe for to fonde,
Whiche is so greable to your harte,
and pleasant in your mynde:
Wyth whom you may hereafter lyue
in great felicitie,
Receauyng fruyt by Gods hysgh power
your chyldren for to be.

CWhich may awplesse, and increase
great honour to your naime,
And all your lynage wyll rejoyce
when they shall see the same:
Wherfore I will renounce to you
my tytle and my ryght,
And clearely all that I shall have,
wyth that sayre maybe so byrght.

CI gyue it clearely unto you
as it is geuen to me,
For euer more whyle lyfe doth last
your Ladpe for to be:
Call to your prestnate couraige agayne
waſhe cleane your vysage whyte
Amende your eyes folowynge with teates
by weeping all this nyght.

Alsagus and Archelaus.

Chandon all your beauya cheare
the day appeareth nre,
Whrch you do know I vpd apoynt
the mayd for to marrye:
Let vs consult betimes therfore
how we may bring about,
That you ryght wyselye may attayne
your purpose thozow out.

Chnd all your hole desires so
for to atchryue wryth iope,
Take heede therfore vnto my wordes
and marke well what I saye:
you know ryght well that we are bothe
so lyke in euerye place,
Preporchioned all in euerye lymme
both bodeye, head, and face.

COur speach & countenaunce doth agree
so lyke in euerye waye,
That if we were apparelled bothe
alyke in one arraye:
And both apart for to be seene
yet few men could then know,
Whrch of vs were the other and
vnto his fellow shew.

CAlso you do remember well
the custome of this land,
That notwithstanding all these wordes
by ioyoyng hand in hand:

C.iii.

Ths

The Vyssorye of
The marryage not confyned is
all hoolye iust and ryght,
Untyll in Chamber they be come
together both at nyght:

CAnd that the husband bath put on
his wyues finger a Ringe,
And also doth vnlosetherwith
the knot of her gridlynge:
Then is the marryage fullye knyt
and they be man and wyle,
To live so longe in one accord
as God shall gne them lyfe.

CTherefore will I my selfe be theare
before my sciendes in place,
Performyng all the brydemans parte
in every poynt and case:
And you I wyll in secrete hyde
wheare none shall you espyn,
Untyll at nyght when that to bedde
eche man hym selfe doth lyfe.

CAnd then you shall conurye your selfe
in the most secretest wyse,
Into the Chamber of the mayde
as I shall best deuse:
And nothyng shall the mayde espyn
or thynde of you a mis,
Because your rayment unto myne
so lyke in all thynges is.

your

Alfagus and Archelaus.

¶ Your parsonage also, in all poyntes
will seeme vnto her sight,
So lyke to myne that by no meanes
hee can espie the slyght:
And shoxlye geat you to the bed
delay not longe the thyng,
And on her synger strayght wayes then
put on your owne golde ryng.

Her Gyrdle of brygynytie
vndoe without delaye,
Fulfull your pleasure all the nyght
as louers lyste to playe:
Comforste your selfe Alfagus therfore
my louing friend moche deare,
With good reftection and solace
religne your heauye cheare.

¶ That this culour wan and pale
your cheeke so leane and thinne,
Be not the cause to let the thyng
whiche easly you may winne:
I knowe ryght well within my mynde
that when this thyng is done,
And that you do enjoy the mayde
by me as nowe begonne.

¶ I shall deryded bee of all
the foalke that shall it know,
And all my kynted wyth disperte
theyz Irefull hate wyll shew:

The Vyssore of

In seekyng all the meanes they can
me to expulce and dryue,
Out of this Cyvre in short tyme
a bannysched lyfe to lyue.

Cand thynke me to be suche a one
as hath done great out rage,
By geuyng of a great reproche
vnto my parentage:
But god shall worke his wyl therin,
my mynde is fully bente,
To do the thyng that I haue sayde
is all my whole intent.

CI force not for the fetyous rage
of anye spytfull foe,
Re yet what Payne I do abyde
by fortunes frownyng blow:
So that you my friend Archelaus
may lyue in fortunes grace,
And haue felicite to increace
your honoure with solace.

CArchelaus marrie the Ladie
to Alfagus. Alfagus comyngh
in mynynge and ieth with her all
the night, Archelaus desireth al
hys frendes to gyue eare to
the oracion whiche Alfa-
gus wold make.
Capit. v.

CWryth

Alfagus and Archelanus.

Ayth this Alfagus turnde hym selfe,
as one awakte from sleepes,
And thought hee had but seene a
more care on him to heape: (Dreame
And doubtyng whether he had harde
Archelanus speake or no,
Or seene a vision in his mynde
Deyuyse to be so.

CAs he before had harde his friende
with frendly wordes declare,
But lookyng up with stedfaste eyes
ryghtwell perceaued that:
Hys friende Archelanus standyng by,
with teates lamentyng styl,
Lest fortune by her fatal wheele
hys hole deuyce should spyl.

CThe wofull Alfagus set hym by
not knowyng what to saye,
But confortyng his most dere friende
in all that ever he mape:
Thankyng hym then for his kynde wordes
which were incomparable,
Refusyng it syr that he sayd
I am so haryable.

CMore better were it that there shoude
a hondred such as I,
Lyke unkynde wretches to be slayne
or some euill death to dye:

f.i.

Then

The Hystorye of
Then that so noble a man as you
Should sustayne any ill.

Or that reproche or damage should
come anye wayes you till.

But then Archelang in his arnes
his friend Alfaus tooke,
Comfortyng hym all that he myght
with many a merye looke:
And therwithall dyd swere and eke
protest as not dysmayd,
That with glad harte al thinges shold bet
as he before had sayd.

The sweetlye byssed hym also
and sayd my friend most dere,
All thynges shalbe accomlyght well
therfore be of good cheere:
Alfaus then perceauyng that
all thynges were sygne and sure
And that no fayned friend shipp did
his faythfull friend alure.

He set hym up wþþ ioyfull harte
ryght in his bed as he,
Had felt before no payne at all,
but wakst from sleepe to be:
The quicke blood in his byssage then
began for to ressore,
Suche coloure as by nature he
receaued had before.

End

Alfagus and Archelau.

¶ And after hee had well sustayned
With some good dynke and meate,
His feeble bode which before
had no desyre to eate,
In certe dayes was brought agayne
Unto his woonted state,
Lyke to Archelau in all thynges
his faythfull frennde and mate.

¶ The daye of mariage did approche
Ech one with buspe care,
Did seeke for such thynges as shold needs
The weddynge to prepare,
Archelau was deuyng spyl
The best and surest way,
Whoso he his friend Alfagus myght
Is to his rowme conuay.

¶ Now thought he this, now thought hee
As fancie did him guyd, (that
At length he found the secretest feal,
That els he myght prouide
And shewed Alfagus all the shryng
In what place hee shold staudē,
Take heede therfore (quoth he) that you
Be redde at my hande.

At nyght when wee to bed shall go
Within the chamber doore,
Behinde the cloth ther is a hole
Where you may be full sure:

f.it.

And

The Pilgrime of

And before we to bed waste come
I will conuaine you thare,
So that when I shall come and byrnge
with me the mayde so fayre.

¶ You shall come forth behynde my backe
and I will slyp awaie,
So no man shall spyn the sleight
because that your armes:
Is like to myne in every thyng
your vassalage eke also,
Resemblyeth myne so that the mayde
of this can nothyng kno.

¶ Be of good cheere Archelans sayd
my frinde Alfonus now,
Leave all syng in all other thynges
and thynges on nought but howe:
you maye accomlyshe your desyre
be of good cheere therfore,
The daye is come that now from death
to lyfe I muste restore.

¶ The day was come and then anon
the Laufe fronde and gave,
Archelans tooke hond to the churche
her lead without delay:
Accompanayd with his frindes and leers
ryght honorablie to beholde,
The couenantz were agreeid vpon
and echel theyz mynde had tolde.

¶ Unto

Alfagus and Archelans.

¶ Unto the other and anon
when all thynges els was done,
They hasted home where as the feast
wrytgh great ioye was begonne:
That daye they passed with much myght
and sportes in sundrye wrytgh,
Ech man a sundrye game and playe
for pallyme dyd devise:

¶ Betweenes Archelans and the mayde
such entertaynement grewe,
That all men theare had great belyte
their louely looks to vewe:
Prayng greate Godz good gytte
syth Nature did agree,
To gyne them beaultie vertue and
the arte of curtesye,

¶ Whiche were ryght excelent in thes swapp
excelling others farre,
That in the Cytie of echs sorte
before tymes wedded wate:
What shal I say the daye was spent,
and Phabus braines so higge,
Descended downe into the west
whiche hidden was his lyght.

¶ The twynckling stas by wonted course
apperead in the skye,
And every man and woman falle,
Unto their cell oto bys.

f.ii. Archelans

The Wykynge of
Archelaus and the mayden then
acompaned with her kyn,
were brought unto thei chamber doore
and as they entred in.

Alfagus hydden in the wall
tyght well did them beholde,
And feyng least he myght not sprede,
hys harte was very colde.
But then Archelaus thynbyng on
his friend Alfagus case,
Deuysyng how or by what meanes
he myght come in his place.

Dismissed all the foalke awaie
and thank them for thei payne,
And sayd I wylth my ladye nowe
most taulke a worde or twayne:
Gyue place to vs now at this tyme
most hartely I you praye,
To morrow wyl we passe the tyme
with more disprezt and playe.

Eche one departed them anon
no wyght was left behinde,
But even Archelaus and the mayde,
eche one to saye their mynde:
Alfagus lyvynge still in hope,
thought euerynynge a peare,
Archelaus carefull was also
that Alfagus myght appear.

Now

Alfagus and Archelans.

¶ Howbeit he with ardent loue
Desired her to haue,
Aboue all worldlye treasures but
his friendes lyfe then to saue:
He had most ardent care of all
sayre mayde therfore sayd he,
A little whyle I must departe
I praye you tarrye me.

¶ God made as though to eas him selfe
vnto the stoole he went,
He to Alfagus tooke his waye
nought els was his intent:
Alfagus toyfull soz to see
his friendes Archelans cheare,
Wythout delaye came foorth anon
all frustrate was his care.

¶ Archelans stode in Alfagus place
and Alfagus soothly did go,
Unto the mayd the whiche as then
therof dyd nothyng kno:
Now is Alfagus layd in the bed
he made no louge delaye,
The mayden knew not whom he was
and dyd him not denaye.

¶ For why: wee thought nought els but þ
Archelans had ben theare,
But alfagus toyfull was to see,
that hee so well did fare:

The Hystorye of
These two young wedded foalkes therfore
no longer lye they may,
for ch man byrd faste to ryse
so faire spent was the daye.

CArchelans thought it was most meete
for to disclose his mynde,
Whyle all his kyndes theu were there
no better tyme to synde:
Alsagus his deare freind therfore
he vnto hym dyd caull,
And placed hym within the myddest
among his kyndes foalke all.

CAnd all the nobles that dyd dwelle
in Carthagye was theare
To whom Archelans reverence shewed
Desyryng thei fulfayre:
To gyue attentyue eate a whyle
that Alsagus myght discus,
A secreat thyng Archelans sayd
which he will saye to vs.

Who beyng placed in his rowme
amongest the myddest of all,
Declared foorth such woordes to them
as after follow shall.

CThe Oration which Alsagus made
before the freindes of Archelans,
openyng vnto them the
hole matter.

Cap.vi.

¶¶¶

Alfagus and Archelanus,

Mysteindes & nobles of Cartilage
this day amonkest you all,
An insample is shewed vncredible
which lately did befall:
Whiche doth dyscribe the dewyne power
of honorable loue,
Whose forcyng darte with deadly stroke
excellenth all above.

CThis loue hath brought perpetuall fame
and eke great commendacion,
Unto this Citle and also
vnto the Grecians nacion:
Wherfore you ought ryght excellently
greate comforde for to take,
And give due thankes to God the which
this ardent loue did make.

CIf that amonuge you there remayne
such auncient wryte report,
As had your noble progenytours
which weare of the lyfe sorte:
For what more prysle may be to men
that on the earth do dwelle,
Then faythfulness, Benevolence, and con-
whose vertues doth excell. (stance

Cfor lacke wherof all countreyes and
all Citles do decaye,
Unto desolacion and tuerne eke
they runne without delapes.

G.ii.

Lyke

The Writings of Chaucer

Lyke as by them also they come
to great and high prosperytie,
With high estate and much renoune
of Prudencie and felycertye.

¶ What shall I longe delaye the lyne
or taryn in the thyngie,
Confectyng myne intent and not
to tell my hole meanyng:
You knawys ryght well ecb one of you
from whence I came and howe,
Unto this Cytie I was sent
wheras I am even now.

¶ And by aduenture I did fynde
the house of Diuinus here,
Who of longe tyne a very friende,
he was to me most deare:
His sonne Archelauis theare I founde
of myne owne age and state,
Who in all thynges was lyke to me
 hym chose I for my mate.

¶ We were so lyke in every thyngie
the one unto the other,
That wee coulde not deserued be
of father nor of mother:
But onlye that we wouidre our selues
tell one anothers name,
Unto our parentes and also
to others shew the same.

¶ So

Alcas and Archelaus

Co that at length about our neckes,
spike laces they dyd tape,
Of sundrye collours that they myght
dyscrene vs by that waynesse
What mutuall loue and agreement
hath vpa betweene vs twayne
This eyght vres alwayes since I came
with Olimpus to emayne.

Cyou all be witneses that haue hym
beyholders of the thynges, and as
To se our sweete conuersacion yon
have alwayes byn wandeþynges
And also our consent of mynde
In luste and aþþyng, þou never sawe dyscoyde, nor once
wherin we dyd barþe.

CInd as for my parte after that
my father was deseased,
Not withstandyng that to mee
aboundantly ther happened:
Great possesyonys and houses fayre
with ryches eþe innumerable,
And proffers of hys dignitie
wyth Ladys fayre and amþable.

CBy steyndes and alþans eþe also
theyz letters to mee sente,
Despryng eþe importunely
to þow as they þane menten.

The Wyllowe of

In comynge home for to receyue
myne erstage due to me,
yea them whiche in the Senat nobo
of all most auncyent be.

Offered me aduaancement hym
In dignite to rayne,
Amongest thos whiche the publycke welth
doth seeke for to mayntayne,
I wyl not now rememb're of
the lamentacions great,
Whiche my most naturall mother made
me howardes to intreat,

Expressyng with most fended moordes
in letters to me sent,
All blotted wyth teares þ which on them
abundantly were sprent:
Wher in shes dyd accuse me soze
because I did delape,
The tyme so long and unto her
not seeke to come awaies.

Sayeng that I am much vnkynde
þyth nature woulde agree,
Specially now in her most neede
her comforde for to bee:
But yet all this within my harte
could not at all preuaine,
He to remoue Archelaus from
but so the brenth of my nagle.

Ind

Alfagus and Archelans.

CAnd but that force doth me constraine
by nature so prouyded,

Icoulde no[n] may not be withdrawne
for anye chynge contrayned:

Once from his company most sweete
and pleasant unto mee,

Acsepte with his most gentle harte
he doth thereto agree.

CI chusyng rather to lyue
wyth hym by fatal boome,

His felow and compayon to be

then counseler of Roome:

For which my kyndnes hath byn well
aquitte[n]e this daye,

Dels redoubled by his helpe
if I the troth do sape.

CDeluyng me stoune cruelle death
wherto I was so npe,

That of all deathes I shoulde haue dyed
a death most cruelly:

And so Lachesus shoulde haue spunne

my fatal thred in payne,

My pleasant yeares and yowthfull dayes
the crytell yea[r]t shoulde gayne.

CI do perceaus you wonder much
ye noble Athenes now

To haue ofthes and of a trouthe
no maruellis for how

61

The Wyf of Bath

Or what is he so bolde of herte
that burst attempte with me,
To satysfye his cruell mynde in me
by death for to conspike me.

Being a Romayne and deene
of tyall Romaynes blood,
Or who ells thynde you would be so
malicious, or so wood:
To sley me whom you all do know
hath done no vilanye,
To any man or woman which
doth dwelle within this Certeine.

You all shall be my iudge therin
if that it be not so,
For if I shold impuse my selfe
you myght well therof kno:
For in mynglyghtes I have byn still
synce to this Certeine I,
Came fyfth, and in Olimpus house
appoynted was to lye.

May nay my freyndes there is no man
that I herein accuse,
Before you all my friendes here
no such talke will I use:
I do perceave you lysten spyllyng
and woulde desyre to kno,
What man he was that dyd presume
or seeke to vse me so.

With

Alfagus and Archelans.

CWith cruell deede and great dysoyce
my lyfe frome me to take,
On lyke sort to do this facte
such enterpryse dyd make
It was loue, o Cartagines,
even that same loue I saye,
Which as your Poetts doth declare
hath wounded many a wape.

CThe cheifest parte of all the Goddes
to whom pe honour gyve,
The whylet they were on earth, & here
lyke earthly men dyd lyue:
Thy loue constrainyd Jupiter
to swym as doth a Swam,
And be transformed lyke a Bull
to hyde his shape of man.

CHercules eke the banquyshet
of monstres great and stronge,
Lyonnes feare and Gantes huge
wyth bodies large and longe:
The same loue caused hym by force
vpon a Rocke to spyn,
Sittynge amonget the maydens clad
a womans cloþyng in.

CThe same loue also whiche did cause
the Princesse sette and stout,
Of Greese and eke all Asya to
asseble in a route:

H. i.

Encampyng

Encamping in the fealdes of Troye

Wyth manys a cruellyght,

End manys a storme and tempest they

did sustayne day and nyght.

C The faines lone I do say agaynst

whose ferre affautes to ftryue,

May no reschaunce be at all,

that reson can contrive,

That wounded me so sudenlye

and stroake my hart so sore,

That remediles I wold haue dyed

no man could me restore.

C Had not Archelaus holpen me

througb his frendship incomparabil,

I wold haue ended miserabellye

my woswifte incurable:

I see you do desprie to know,

and sayne wold haue me tell,

Whom, where, and what she is, that I

have chosen to loue so well.

C O noble Cartagines in this

no longer wyl I stape,

But openly declare it now

to you wythout delay:

It is Andromucus the Ladys sayte,

the whiche Archelaus chose,

To be his wife till desteny did

theye satall thygodes vnloose.

C whom

Allsages and Archetans.

CWhom he did loue most intyphile
but when his gentle harte,
perceaved loue had strouken me
even with her forsyngre darte
And that my loue was set aghen
more higher in degree,

CThen his and that I soored hoss
to loue then his Lady.

CAnd that it never dyd proseede
of wanton lust nor wylle,
Ne ychter it of conuersation longe
wherby to tanke our spylle.

CCorrupt desyre or fonsalysse
he saw no sway did beare,
But with the onke sight of her
so taken in the snare.

CThat I immediaslie was strouke
with most incurable care.

CDesyring all that ever I myghte,
death to dispachte my dages,
Pronesyng thereto all I could
by sundry kynde of wyses:
But he then by his wisedome soone
perceived well the chyng,
As I doubt not but that ye do
by this my tale tellyng.

CThat by predestination shes
of God was geuen to mee,
And not to him but that shes shoule

H. II.

My

The Hystore of
my onely Ladie. vce:
Wherto be geynt, place as one
both saythfull wylle and iuste,
Cleynynge more our freyndshyp then
a woomans lone and iuste.

¶ Wherto he was entred more
by his freyndes wylle and mynde,
Then by the vviolence of Cupids darte
constrained after kynde:
Wherfore ryght wyllingly to me
his intress he dyd gve,
The whiche he to the damsell had
that so his freynd myght lyue,

¶ And it is I (Alfagus) knylp
whiche I did the mayden wed,
I put a Ryng her finger vpon,
and went with her to bed:
Of shamefastnes her Eydle then
soothly I did vntaye,
By her I haue lyne all this nyght
what would you haue me saye.

¶ I haue confirmed matrimonye
and made her now a wyfe,
She is myne owne and I am hers
whille God shall lende vs lyfe:
At these wordes they whiche present were
began to murmurre fast,
And on Archelaus daynly
full geuenous lookes did cast.

¶ Then

Alfagus and Archelous.

CThen Alfagus spake agayne and sayd
why looke you on hym so,
Leue of your grudgingyng countenaunceys
and menassyngeys whiche you sho:
Tewardeys my freind Archelous soz
he hath done to you all,
Great honour and no dede to herby
reproch to hym shold fall.

CI tell you he accomlyght hath
the hole partes of astpend,
And that loue whiche was most certayne
he hath done to the end:
He knewe in Ifcycke he myght fynde
a nother Ladye byrght,
As fayre and eke as ryche as the
in whom he myght delyght.

CAnd one in whom perhaunce he myght
have better consolacion,
Then to tvis whom he dyd not fynde
agree with contentacion:
But such a freind as I was hee
hauyng respect and mynde,
Unto our synynesse and eke
our longe approued bynde.

CAlso of my condycyon and mynnesdett
estate hee was sure, to the one
Never for to fynde the lyke i mynnesdett
while his lyfe did indure.

H.iii.

CAlso

The Vykyng of
Also the damsell suffereth no
Disparagement in her blood,
Nor hindraunce in her mariage but
hath one as ryche in good.

C And rather is aduaanced more
to dignitie by mee,
But to my friend Archelaus woulde
I, no dispayse shold bee:
Consider noble Lordes also
that I did not her take,
My rather lyuyng when therin
ye myght suppression make,

C That as well her great ryches as
her beautye did stale,
Me soz to take her soz my wyfe
and so my harte procure:
But now my father is diseased
in her I take delyght,
And toyn me selfe with fafhfull loue
to be hers daye and nyght.

C When I do farrre exceede her in
pessilypng and also,
My substance ferre surmounteth hers
as pou ryght well do kno:
When the most noble men of Roome
and eke of Italye,
Desirid in my felowship
to keepe mee compaunge.

C p. 8

Alcas and Archelau.

Cye haue great cause therfore to thanke
Archelau of this thyng,
And as you ought of ryght you shold
in him haue rejoycynge:
And not to cast such angye lookes
extollyng so therby,
This byndnes the wod batonree,
by hym brought wonderoullye.

CWherby of wee and all my blood
such freindship hath he wonne
That never better stendes myght be
spnce firske the wold begonne
And to your Cytie therow me
such hap new may you have.
That from your foes throug a.. p wold,
ryght well wee shall you saue.

CThe which thyng well considered you
myght for Archelau sake,
In lykenes of hym with fine gould
a comple picture make:
And in the chefkest place of all
your Cytie let it stande,
Upon a pylar that all men
whch dwelleth in the land.

CMay haue in wnde our freindship great
that is incomparable,
And how baton this Cytie there
may benefyts come innumerable:

But

The Vykyng of
But if that this perswasion mape
nor can not satisfie,
Your apetyte but that ye wyll
Imagen now therby.

Cany thyng to the damage of
Archelans my friend so vere,
When that I am departed hence
Leaving hym wþþ you here:
To God the creator of all thynges,
My bow here I do make,
That as I shall haue knowledge therof
In all hast for his sake.

Chether I shall resort and bryng
Thinwisible powre of Roome,
Reuengyng hym agaynst his foes
With such a cruell doome:
That all stycke therof shall reporte
And speake perpetuall shame,
Unto theyr owne reproche and eke
Dishonour of theyr name.

Chad therwithall Altagus and
Archelans stode by ryght,
But all the other that was theate
Of Altagus stod in flyght,
Dyssembling all theyr mallice and
made seemably ther cheare,
As they contented in all thynges
To Altagus myght appere,

CAltagus

Alfagus and Archelau.

¶ Alfagus is sent for to Rome. Archelau is banished his countrey by his kyndred. After Alfagus departing he is fayne to beg his bread, and so poorely cometh to Rome, to seeke Alfa, he thinketh him selfe dispised & entred in to a Barne, lameing his fortune.

Cap. vii.

SDone after thys by a forise of the Senate and people of Rome, Alfagus sent for was that he wþout delay myght come: Home to theyr Cittie and to eare his fathars dignite, Whiche seyng needes he must obay did graunt them wyllynglye.

¶ Appoyntynge them a dawe when he without fayle woulde be theare How be it for Archelau his dere frennde he tooke muche care: And sayd my louyng frind most dere ryght to full shoulde I bee, If that you woulde forsaye this place and go to Rome with mee.

¶ The one halfe of my landes and of my goodes I will you grue, Both unto you and to your wifes so long as th. p. shall lyue,

J. I.

3n

The Histoyre of
In feloship styl we wyl remayne
till desteny doth denay,
Lachesus for to spynne her threede
out fatall lyre to stay.

¶ But then Archelaus had in mynde
consydering therwithall,
How necessarie his counsell myght bee
what thing so myght fellai:
Unto the Cittie of Carttagye
by many sundrye wapes,
Remembryng that his fainylte
theat lyued manie dayes.

¶ And howe his bounden duetie was
the Cittie to mayntayne,
And for the common welch to seeke
some propheete or some gayne:
Wherfore his freind Altagus hee
desyred to be still,
for I (quoth he) may not depart
how be it with ardent will.

¶ I do despise your companie more
then anie earthlye wight,
Great greefe it will be unto me
when I forgo your sygbl:
Altagus then perceaving that
no reason it shold bee,
His freind Archelaus shold depart
out of his owne countree.

¶ Con

Alfagus and Archelanus.

¶ Considerynge how his counsell myght
the Citle well vpholde,
As other sage and wise men dyd
in auncient tyme of olde:
And that by nature bound he was
to his countreyes welch to seeke,
No more he woulsde perswade him then
but sayd with woordes mreeke.

¶ Fare well my most deare freind for now
frome you I must depart,
Farewell my louyng mate in whom
I always set my harte:
Although in person I be gone
yet haue mee still in mynde,
If euer of me you stande in neede
a sure freind shall you fynde.

¶ Archelanus kyssed Alfagus then
whome he loued as his lyfe,
He kyssed eke the Ladye sayre
which shoulde haue ben his wyfe:
So ech one now departed is
and Alfagus tooke his waye,
Towarde s Roonie and with hym tode
his Ladie fesche and gay.

¶ Wher at their comynge with great ioy
Alfagus mother then,
Received was and unto her
most welcomme of all men:

¶ I. ii. Whet

The historie of
Where as he dwelled an in myrr
and great felicite,
Receaving many chyldryen by
Endzomitus his Ladye.

CAnd for his wisedome and learnyng he
so highlye was esteemed,
That no hygh office was but that
with honour he atchieued:
And in the noble Cittie of Roome
much dignite dyd beare,
Receaving loue and prapse of all
the people that were there.

CBut now let vs retorne agayne
wher as wee were before,
And of the spykefull kyndred of
Archelaus speake we more:
And of the Ladyes freyndes also
whose malycy dyd reynayne,
Wyth secret hatred in theyr herte
Archelaus to dysdayne.

CSo that soone after Altagus had
to Roome warden tooke his wye,
Malyspously with shamefull wordes
they vexte hym day by day:
And bterly abhorred hym
for that he dyd dyppye,
To take so fyte a wafe (they sayde)
so ryche and eke so wylle.

Alsagus and Archelane.

Cin whom he myght haue tooke deligght
but that he dyd abyayne, ~~and~~
The frenship which to him they myshed ~~is~~
exceptyng not thair paynes ~~and~~
But leauyng her to Alsaus wholie
foughthyn they dyd prouyde, ~~and~~
Reprouyng hym in a meryal ~~and~~
with vnbrynde wordes belyde. ~~and~~

Cand all that ever they could deuyse ~~and~~
by hym to do or fare, ~~and~~
Malysously they soughte it out ~~and~~
and that without delape ~~and~~
Fyre they dyd exclude hym from
theyr counsell and also, ~~and~~
Not thynkyng that to be ynoch
so lyght to let hym go. ~~and~~

CBut dyd prophetyt from hym them ~~to~~
all honest compaynes, ~~and~~
And yet not hauring ther mythal ~~and~~
their mynde to fatesye, ~~and~~
Finally adiudged hym
not worthy to haue ~~and~~
Inpe of the possessions which
hys father to hym gave. ~~and~~

CReyther yet any of the goods,
which his parentes dyd leane,
Behynde them at theyr death to him
as theyr gyrlid bequeath.

3.iii. whom

The Bytoge of
Whom he as they supposed did
unnaturally to sayne,
A frendly pndiscreet and so
his parentage dysdisyne.

¶ Wherfore they did dispoule him cleane
of all that euer he had,
And tooke the rayment from his backe
wherwith he then was clad:
And almost naked lyke a man
whom fortune did dispoule,
Out of the Cittie expuised hym
in the most cruellest wise.

¶ Thus is Archelans lately one
most welthye in the Cittie,
Dispouled of all that euer he had
no man on him taketh pycle:
One of the nobles in Cartilage
in dignite he did raygne,
And now of every woman and man
is had in great dysayne.

¶ For his kynde harre thus with dyspite
he banished is for are.
And his owne countrey wher he myght
haue lyued also with ioy:
And as a man vilayzed and lost,
by fortune to and fro,
He wappeth up and downe and hath
no frend his grete to shew.

¶ And

Alfagus and Archelans

Cond no man could he fynde that woulde
him ayed in his distresse, & dasse
But wandred by and downe alone
In extreame wretchednesse
Alas (youth he) what shall I do
In my serue thus remayne, having
O fortune why thus truellpe
hast thou me in disdayne.

CAlfagus my freind is now in tope
he hath the mapden fayre,
And for his sake I doreayne,
Opprest with sorow and care
If unto hym this thyng were toulde
ryght lute I am that hee,
Woulde haue great sorow & care for this
My payne and my serue.

CHe would revenge me of my foes
if once he myght heare tell,
How for his sake disdayne falle
They dyd me thus espellse
I will nomore therfore delaye,
my haplys hap to haue,
But spredelpe all that ene. I can
to Roome warbes will I goe

CAnd unto Alfagus my deare freind
Declare my holdestas,
And how my foes with me haue deal
most cruelly now of late
Archelans

The Wyf of Bath

Archam therefore tooke his boare
So fast as he myghte bpe,
Towarde Boome and all alone,
Withouten companye.

The travisith day by day and is
disdained of emere myght,
Sustaynyng hunger in the day
and lieth colde all the nyght:
To begge for meate and drynke then he
was forced to proceed,
for why? he myght no more delaye
hys hungrye Cuttes to ferde.

And often when he came in place
where other Palmers were,
He was not knowne and therefore they
on him did take no care:
He could not do as otherys dyd
with many wordes to ceare,
And therfore often went withoute
when other almes should haue.

Wherby he dyd oft tymes sustayne
great hunger Payne and grefe,
And no helpe could he haue at all
but teares for his relife:
Thus many a myght day he wente
or that he could attayne,
To come to Boome, but at the lengthe
thorough travailing longe with Payne.
Unto

Alfagus and Archelans.

¶ Unto the Cittis is he come
in hope to haue resyete,
And sayd if Alfagus I may fynde
now gone is all my gryfe:
for Alfagus house of every man
full fast inqureth he,
And at the length is come wher as
ryght well he may it see.

¶ But then beholding it so faire
so large and che so amysable,
So princely baulded and also
in all thynges so delectable:
He was ashamed to approche
or nigh the gates to stand,
He thought it would suape him nought
of that he tooke in hande.

¶ To seeke Alfagus sith that he
was clad in such array,
In which full pourely he had gone
and traueilid myght and daye:
Wherfore to tarry ther besydes
he held it for the beo,
And so he set him downe a whyle
his wearey lymmes to rest.

¶ And sayd if fortune se prouyde
that Alfagus come thys way,
I will present my selfe to him
to heare what he will saye:

The Visage of

I know ryght well he knoweth me
my face when he dooth see,
Therefore if fortune woude do so
ryght ioyfull shold I bee.

CArchelaus being in this thought
and as he dyd deuyse,
Bifagus and his Ladie bee
within his gate espysse
Who issuing out immedaty
for theyz dysport and playe,
Emounted in moste pleasant wye
Upon theyz halefayres gaye.

CAnd rydynge thus for theyz solace
Archelaus did beholde,
But seeing hym clad with such a ryme
all tagged in euer folde:
So byle and spithy to theyz syght
his rayment did appere,
That no regarde they had to hym
ne did beholde his cheere.

CAnd so dyd passe forth on their waps
not knowyng whom it was,
The which within Archelaus harte
such careys did bringe to passe:
That sure Bifagus he did thynke
his fortune had contynned:
That beyng opprest with mortall careys
and begynnes longe deuyded.

CDowne

Alfagus and Archelans.

¶ Dowe in a sound he fell, for why
no longer iwright he stand,
But one amongst them which Roode by
did take hym by the hand:
And wþt þe helpe of others theare
reyued hym agayne,
Thinking that he had bin sycke
not knowyng hym a certfull Payne.

¶ And when he to him selfe was come
he made no longe delay,
But soþt with bid depart and from
the Cittie tooke hys waye:
Intendyng to abyde no more,
with Alfagus for to tauke,
But as a wild beast wander about
þþzow all the world to walke.

¶ But for to rest his wearey lymmes
then force did him constraine,
Within an old barne for to go
that theare he myght complayne:
His cruell fortune all alone
the which place when he found,
Without respect of death or lyfe
he cast hym on the grounde,
¶ And weyng with most dolorous cryes
his fortune dyd brawyle.

¶ O thou Alfagus then quoth he
why doest thou mee dysdayne?
¶ Fayned frenship why so longe

The historye of

hast thou dwelt with vs twayne:
Mynne owne synnde herte hath caused thys
alas why did I so,
Why let I not that vnkynde wretche
haue dyed full longe a go.

Calsagus I had thought thou wouldest
not haue ben so vnkynde,
To me, which of so many yeares
hath ben thy louynge freinde:
Glas my kynnesfolkes nowe I fynde
your wordes to be full true,
Iwould to god that I had ben
aruled then by you.

CWhere is Altagus thy kinde herte
whiche theu wast wont to shewe,
Where is thy sweete acquayntaunce whych
betweene vs I did knowe:
O cruell fortune why hast thou
me thus farr in disdayne,
yon syters thre by fatall doome
why do you now refrayne?

CTo stop my breath and send my soule
where Limbo woxes kingdome lye.
On Limbo lake in Charons boate
to take my deyntie:
I will no longer lyue quoth hee
in this great wretchednes,
But ryd this lelly Ghost of myne
from papne and che dysresse.

And

Alfagus and Archelans.

Cond therwithall his knyfē he drefē
In pount hym selfe to hys,
But god so twrought agaynſ his mynde
And former wicked wylle:
And by the knowledge whiche he had
longe in p̄phylōſophy,
Conſidering wylly every thyngē
Withſtood that deſtinate.

Cyet oft tymes would he take the knyfē
Hys fatal wound to make,
But wſdome did perſwade him ſtill
Hys folly to forſake:
And on this wylle within hym ſelfe
alone contendynge hys,
With euell careſ and tormentes thus
betweene wiſdome and wylle.

Cfatigated with longe watche
And tourneyng great with all,
As god would haue it in this wylle
On deadly ſleepe dyd fall:
His knyfē wherwylle he dyd intend
Hym ſelfe as then to ſlape,
Fall downe hym by as hee on ſleepe
Hys wery bones dyd lape.

B.ii.

Cimon.

The Vyssore of

A common robber hauyng slayne a man, entred
into the Barne wheare Archelauis sleepeth. He
taketh vp the knife and putteth it in the deade mans
wound, and layeth it agayne by Archelauis whos
beyng so founde is accused to dye. At laste
he is knownen of Alfaeus who taketh
the fact vpon him to save his fren-
des lyfe, & offereth to dye.

Cap. viii.

The whilste he on thy slypes did lye
as fortune dyd prouyde,
A common theefe or robber was
a waylyng thare besyde:
To do sain byllious acte or deede
on traueleis by the waye,
Naught els his practyce was but so-
dydlyne both nyght and daye.

TInd by aduenture at that tyme
a marchaunte traueyng by,
The furesayd theefe behynde a bushe
dyd well his tyne espye:
And sodenly the man he tooke
who thought no harme ne ill,
Ind not contented with his goodis
soozthwith he dyd hym kyll.

TWherfore that he myght well escape
and not to be espyed,
In the barne where Archelauis lyes
full fast hym selfe he hymed:

Whe

Alsagus and Archelau.

Who when he entred was and on
Archelau dyd beholde,
And that full faste on sleepe he laye
as I before have tolde.

Chee looked on hys face and sawe
with careys hee was opprest,
And that the sorowfull teares he shed
all sprynkled had his brest:
Right well he knew a desperate man
he was, and there did lye,
With sorowfull sygnes so brought on sleepe,
to ease his myserye.

C This man quoth he will serue right well
to hyde my facte wth all,
And then Cooke by the knyfe which from
Archelau hand dyd fall:
Puttyng it in the wounde of hym
whiche hee before dyd laye,
And in Archelau hand it sette
as there on sleepe he laye.

C So then the theefe with harte full glad
Departed with all spedde,
And sydnyng to the Lyttle came ther
of his big cruell deede:
Wherfore they searched dylygently
in every hollow tree,
And every place which they suspected
the theefe might hiden hym.

C 36.

The Wykynge of

Cat late into the barne they came
where as Archelaus was,
Styll late on sleepe he laye and thoughte
no harme at all alas:
Poor innocent man unto his lot
this mans death nowe must fall,
The searchers therfore busynis
to wake him they do call.

CWho from his sleepe when he awooke
to sygh he did not spake,
And entryng in most sorrowfully
to his accustomed care:
Complaynyng of his fortune then
as he had done before,
With dolfull teares distylling from
his eyen styll more and more.

CO curst be the kyng quoth he
that ever I dyd knowe,
That knynde wrych for wynes sake nowe
I suffer all this wroght:
But when the officers earnestlye
Unto his charge did laye,
The mans death which they found therby
and that he dyd hym slaye.

CThe knyfe a token is they sayde
that lyes downe by thee heires
For all be bloddyped wryth the wound
to bise it doth apperte:

Thon

Alfagus and Archolans.

Thou must needes suffer death therfore
dyspatche and come at once, (foote
Withropes they bounde hym hande and
which were brought for the nonce.

¶ He nothysg dyd deny at all
but what to hym they layde,
Confessid that it was euē so
and helde hym well apayde:
That by so good lucke shold escape
his vyoilent mynde and wyl
When with his owne hands he did thinke
his innocent blood to spyl.

¶ By labore now shall I dye quoth hee
right glad I am therfore,
Good freindes make haste, dyspatche my
that I may see no more: (dayes
The lyght of Sonne ne yet of skye
which on the earth doth shewe
Theyz glytteryng lyght & gladsome heate
on treez on earth belowe.

¶ The mournyng feydes by lymbo lake
I woulde appioche to see,
With those whom loue theyze deathe dyd
that place is best for mee: (foote
The offycers warued greatly then
to see hym so content,
To take his deathe with spedie haste
intreatyng as he went.

L.

¶ That

The Histoyre of

CThat thay wolde not delaye the tyme
wherfore was tolde anon,
Unto the Senate with reporte
the deede of such a one:
Who as you hadde before was slayne
and that in such a place,
Was found a man in Cartilage borne
suspected in that case.

CAnd how they founde the blooddye knyfe
in his hande being styll,
And that it seemed to be he
the whiche the man dyd kyll:
Wherfore shortly with they dyd commaunde
to bynge him to the barre,
Because that tyme in Judgement seate
the counsell setten were.

CIltagus was cheife counceller then
or in lyke dignitie,
Sytting in his rayall seate
wyth great felicitie:
Archelaus then mooste mysterable man
vnto the barre was brought,
With byls and knaues moost lyke a cheese
and innocent was of thought.

COf whom it was demandyd then
if he the man dyd slaye,
That was found dead as ye haue hadde
which he dyd not denaye:

But

Alfagus and Archelans.

But in nests sorowfull maner vſd
his fortune curſe and ban,
Sayeng he was in all the wozde
the moſte unforunatet man.

Co myſterable wretche (quoth hee)
what curſed ſtarre dyd raygne,
When I my fatall thred of lyfe
by nature diſobtayne:
I woule to god Lacheps had
my fatall thred vntayed,
Before I knew that vnynde wretche
whych hath me now vppayed.

CThus ſyghyng in his harte he ſayd
but no man could eſpye,
for whom he ſorrowed in ſuch ſorte
in care and and myſtery:
At length one dyd deuinaund of hym
in what place he was boorne,
And howe he traueyled had ſo farre
with coles ſo rent and toerne.

CIn Carthage good ſy he ſayde
my mother dyd me bare,
And in my youthfull tyme and dages
full well I lyued thare:
But fortune with her fatall wheele
my good lucke dyd enuye,
And therwith on Alfagus hee
dyd caſte a ſorowfull eye.

L.ſt.

CWith

The Histore of

CWith indignacion much and brasse
into great sygnes wþt all,
Wherby abundantly the seates
downe from his eyes dyd fall:
Whych when Altagus did beholde
espyeng eke also,
A marke vpon his vysage whiche
of certayne hee did kno.

CIt was Archelaus his deere freinde
consyderyng ther wþthall,
That by some evill aduenture hee
into that case dyd fall:
Sodenly from his seate hee rose
and kneeled on his knee,
Before the judges all and sayd
my Lordes gyue eare to mee.

CThis man my selfe I newe quoth he
of olde rancour and hate,
The whiche renewed was by vs
of mallice now of late:
This man is grytlesse of the thynge
he is a straunger here,
For in the eyes of all men nowe
ryght well it may appeere.

CThat he is desperate in his wþnde
and careth not for to dye,
And to abrene his sorowes hee
Doth not the facte Denie:

Hee

Alfagus and Archelans.

He doth confess the fact wherof
he is moche innocent,
And so to fyngis his sorowfull dapes
that is his hole intent.

¶ Wherfore the sentence gyne on mee
accordyng to my deede:
And haue accordyng to the lawe
some shamefull death with spedde
Archelans then perceauyng that
contrary to his expectatyon,
His frend Alfagus did begin
to make there such relacion.

¶ And hote he offered for to dye
some shamefull death; and so
Delyuer hym from the death to whiche
full lyke he was to go:
He more importunatly dyd crepe
for iudgement to be done,
And that they wold procrede on hym
lyke as they had begonne.

¶ For I am he withouten fayre
that dyd thys man dystroye,
And as he walked by the wape
withouten companye:
I dyd suppose to haue of hym
some Iuels ryche and fayre,
And startyd so deply from a bushe
before that hee was wate.

L. iii.

¶ Geuyng

The Wykynge of Gualter

¶ Geuyng hym his deadly wound
wherby I myght at ease,
Serche hym well in every place
to do euен as I please:
But when I had destroyed hym so,
it dyd me not auayle,
For there no ryches coulde I fynde
my purpose I dyd fayle.

¶ And beyng then ryght soze in feare
lest any shoulde espye,
This cruell deeđe that I had done
full faste I dyd me byre:
Into the barne where I was founđe
to rest me for a whyle,
But I had watched longe before
and sleepe did me bryle.

¶ So that before I was a ware
full faste on sleepe I laye,
And had the knyfē byll in my hande
the whiche that man dyd slaye:
The officers will conseſſe it so
I muste needes dye therfore,
And thus he called for his death
on them still more and more.

¶ Ifagus dyd Deny those wordes
and sayde he dyd but fayne,
He doth invent these wordes quoth hee
the man he hath not slayne:

Alfagus and Arthelous.

For if that he had done the deede
hee would haue fled awaie,
And not haue tarryed in the place
wher as he did him slay.

Cum other thyngē was in hys mynde
when he did drawe hys knyfe,
By desperate mynde perhappes he thought
to haue ryd his owne lyfe:
I is that a weapon lyke to syght
or kyll a man wyth all,
No no my Lordes it is not so
the knyfe is very small.

CAnd he is lyke a Palmer poore
which beggeth by the waye,
Not lyke a Ratten you may see
his coates are nothyng gay:
It was euern I that snewe the man
the cause I tolde before,
Of olde hate whiche betweene vs was
and kept so long in store.

Cfor as in that place all alone
a hunteyne I dyd ryde,
By euell aduenture in the waye
the man there I espyed:
And thyngynge that no bettter tyme
I myght auenged bee,
But then when as we were alone
and no man els to see.

CEdwē

The Hystorie of Agathia

CIdrewe my sworde without delaye
and hato hym I sayde,
Thou vnyllayne nowe to fynde the here
I am ryght well sparde:
And therwithall on hym I layd
Without respect or care,
That sodenly his deadly wounde
he hadde I was ware.

Cwhich when I sawe out of the waye
I drew hym by and by,
I tooke my horse in all the haste
and bombardes faste did fyer
This thyng is true whych I haue sayde
the lawe now let me haue,
Why do ye deferte of so longe
no man my lyfe maye saue.

CArchelaus sayd it was not so
but he the man dyd slaye,
Alfagus dyd withstande tho
and dyd hym syll denaye:
Thus argued they longe tyme for death
who myght the other saue,
Aboundayntly they teates they wend
with wylryng for they grane.

CWherat the Senat and people all
was wonderously abashf,
Not knowing what the thyng myght mean
but goodes full sore agast.

C The

Alfagus and Archelau.

The murtherer beinge mooned wþþ pyttie de-
clareth the trueth. Alfagus taketh Archelau
home to his house, much sojowful for his
aduenture. The people rejoyce þ
the trueth is knownen, and the
murtherer is set at ly-
bertie. Cap. ix.

AW he which was þ theefe in Deede
and murthered had the man
Dyd here this thing & in the pzeale
amonge the folke dyd stand:-
Who then perceyuyng in his herte
the marueyous great contention,
Of these two persons which was nougþt
but of theyþ owne iuencion.

Che knew they were full innocent
in that which they dyd saye,
þet one to sauie the others lyfe
would not the Deede denayes
And that it was proceded of
a frenþship most incomparable,
By ardent loue on both sydes set,
so sygne and eþe bnuaryable.

Chose heinously pronounced he was
the truþ for to dysclose,
So through the pzeale he breaketh fass
and to the varre he gase:
Before the Senate and people all
whereas without delaye,
His boþce hee lyfted vp on hys
and unto them dyd saye.

M.t.

Clypght

The Hysto:ye of

Cryght noble fathers wylle and sage
to you it is well knowen,
That I am nowe and hath ben the
full many years a gone:
A comon Barator and a theefe
and eke is knowen to you,
Alfagus is of noble bloode
and of excellent vertue.

CApproued alwayes for a man
both noble wylle and sage,
CDiscended as you know ryght well
of great and hygh lynage:
Ind never towardes man nor wyfe
malcyous was his mynde,
Wyanpe outward spyne at all
that euer wylt coulde fynde.

CThis other stranger eke also
doth seeme a man to be,
Ofsobet lyfe hauyng hys harte
full of spynlycitez
Ind that is more desperate of mynde
for soone great greuous payne,
Which he hath taken in him selfe
by fortunes frownyng brayne.

CInd euidently unto your eyas
ryght well it may appere,
Ig also it doth unto all
the people that be here:

200

Alfagus and Archelans.

Wolles reverent fathers in this thyng
my harte doth now relent,
For unto you I do confess
these are both innocent.

C I am the parson which dyd slaye,
and murther eke the man,
Whych was found dead, now of late
with colour pale and wan:
I robbed hym of all his gould
and syluer every deale,
As I was wonke with others moe
when as I wente to steale.

C And in the barns I entred then
whych stood but there hadde by
Thys straunger flat vpon the grounde
full fasse on sleepe did lye:
Hauyng by hym a naked knyfe
wherwith the better to spedde,
I put it in the dead mans wounde
to hyde my wycked dede.

C Whiche being all be rased with blood
I made no staze ne let,
But to this straunger came agayne
and in his hande it set:
Whiche thyng when I had done I made
no staze ne let at all,
I hyed me fast awaie and thought,
no harune coulde me besall.

P.ii.

C To

The Writings of

Co this mans charge I knew ryght well
all men the dede woulde lape,
And now I do perceiue ryght well
he doth it not denape:
But pyttie so hath moued my harte
that needes I must confesse,
This facte to saue this innocent man
and serke myne owne dysresse.

CThys was my whole deuyce in deedes
your iudgement to withstande,
But now I do commit my lyfe
even here into your hande:
Rather then this noble man
Alfagus shoulde be slayne,
Or that this innocent straungeres lyfe
would ende with greife and payne.

CWherat the Senate and people all
such great comforde did take,
That with the noyse of toyfull harkes
the whole courte they dyd shake
Alfagus ran to Archelaus then
and in his armes him caught,
O my mooste saythfull friend he sayed
why hast thou me thus soughte

CO why hath fortune delt with thee
so cruelly in disperte
Why wouldest thou sende me wordes to me
to helpe thee in thy ryght:

Dow

Alfagus and Archelans.

Chow could you to this Cittie come
and would not seeke for mee,
Why did you thinke I woulde vsypse
you in your myserye.

CBe, no, Archelans in this wold
god let me never lyue,
If for your safegarde all my goodes
and lyfe I woulde not gree:
Declare to mee your great myswap
and how it came to passe,
That you are brought to this distresse
with carefull payne alaſſ.

Cand therwithall downe from hys eyen
the salte teares fell so faste,
That vnneth coulde her speake a wold
but if his harte shoulde braste:
Archelans had muche teareyng also
for to see his frennde to see,
Embracyng, kyssyng and thankyng hym
wyth great sydelytie.

Cand sayd my louyng frennde when I
vnto your house shall come,
I will declare my whole rstate
to you both all and soone:
Through all the Cittie publyshed was
this frenndhys moche incomperable,
Of Alfagus and Archelans whiche
to them was most commendable.

M. iii. **C**and

The Wykoxye of

Cand so extolled and magnysied them
euен all the realme throughout,
That by the mouthes of every man
theyr fame was spred about:
fynally at the instance of
Alfagus and also,
The sute of all the people made
vnto the Senate tho.

Che therse was pardoned of his facte
and freely sent awaye,
With charge nomore to do the lyke
to no man nyght nor daye:
Alfagus Archelaus lead
vnto his house anon,
And ryche apparel on his backe
he caused to be on.

CUnto Andrynya of all men
most welcome then was hee,
Shee kyssed and iunbraced hym
with much sayre curtesye:
And sayde my louyng freind most deare
what spytefull foes did raygne,
To bryng you in such myserye
by force and great disdayne.

CBut be you of good comfort syth
God bath you byther sent,
And all the goodes walbe as yours
whiche God to vs bath lent:

yes

Alfagus and Archelans.

yea quoth Alfagus with my harte

I wyphe it shoule be so,

If that ye wyl abyde wyth mee

and no more homewardes go.

¶ But Archelans my deare freind
sayne woulde I here you tell,
The cause wyphe from your countrey so
your foes dyd you expell.

Archelans shewethe Alfagus all his troubls
and myserye, who sorrowfully lamented his case.

And hauyng prouyded a great Army, went
with Archelans to Carthage, wheres he
flew and ponished all his foes, &
leavyng his freind in quyet
rest, returneth againe
to Roome.

Cap. x.

¶ My dere freind Archelans sayde
I will to you declare,
How that dyspitfully my foes
oppreßed me with care:
When that your Ladys Andromaca
and you departed was
from Carthage where manye peres
in passyng we dyd passe.

¶ Your Ladys bry and myne also
conspyrred such dysdayne,
That all the meanes & wares they sought
how that I myght be slayne:

But

The Vyseye of

But when they culd fynd nought that way
to do me such outrage,
They sought another kynge of trade
theyr malycie to aswage.

¶ And syrte expulised me from the seate
where counsell I dyd gyue,
But thinking that was not paonghe
so well to let me lyue:
Prohpybetid from mee then
all honest compaunce,
And yet not beyng so content
theyr wrath to pacifte.

Adiudged me not worthy to
enteyn my fathers lande,
Ne nothyng els which as you knew
dyd fall into my hande:
For why sayd they he dooth disdaine
his fathers parentage,
And will not bee ayuled by
our counsell wyse and sage.

¶ But leueth of the Ladie whom
for hym with care we sought,
With swaine he hath begyled vs
Alagus hath her caught:
My goodes and landes all that I had
they tooke from me therfore,
No not a garment for my backe
they woulde to mee resorte.

¶ But

¶ But almost naked lyke a man
whome fortune dyd dyspyse,
They dzaue me from the Cittie in
the mooste dyspytefull wyle:
And no man coulde I fynde that once
woulde seeke my helpe or ayde,
For those in whom I trusted mooste
hath cheifly me vpbryde.

¶ Then wandered I vp and downe w care
and mylery sore opprest,
To begge my bread constrainde I was
no place I founde of rest:
At length through trauelyng long w paine
I came thys Cittie to,
And joyfull was my harte as then
in hope to speke with you.

¶ But when I came your palyce npe
beholdynge it so gaye,
I was ashamed to approche
and to my selfe did lape:
I will abyde without the gates
and tarrye for a space,
Perhaps I shall oz it be longe
beholde by fortunes grace.

¶ My freinde Alagus come this wye
so then hee shall mee see,
And as I was deuyshng thus
the best wye that myght bee:
I did espre you come and eke
your Ladye in your hande,

A. i

Whych

Whiche made my harte full glad, and I
Upon my feete did stande.

Chat so you myght beholde me as
ye passed by the waye,
But as you passed by and sawe
me clad in such eraye
No mynde on mee ye had at all
whiche made mee to surmyse,
That for my poore estate I had
you dyd me now dyspysse.

Cand in a sounde for care I fell
opprest wyth mortall woo,
But bryng then retyned agayne
I thought soorthwyth to goo
Moste lyke a brast about the wrold
to wandeir up and downe,
And drewe my knyfe to slaye my selfe
wher as nowe I was founde.

CBut god withstood that cruell deede
so I on sleepe dyd fall,
And helde the knyfe styll whiche I thought
to slaye my selfe withall.
O freynd Archelaus, Altagus sayde
my harte may not endure,
To heare the wofull state you had
my deaht it wyll procure.

CI am the cheifest cause of thyg
alas why dyd I so,
O spytfull eyes, where was your syght
when

when as you could not know
My deere frende standynge in the waye
in hys to haue releefe,
Alas, alas, vnto my harte
how terryble is the greefe.

¶ But when Archelaus sawe hys frende
Alfagus to relent,
And inwardly with doulfull teares
his neelygence repente:
Moste louyngly imbraced hym,
and sayde my freynde be thyll,
Leue of your sorowfull syghes ye make
your bysage for to spyll.

¶ The thyngs which nowe are past & gone
no man may call agayne,
Why harte you now your selfe therfore
and weepe with greevous payne:
I knowe ryght well no faulte in you
in this thyngewas at all,
But my owne neelygence causeth moste
of this unluckye fall.

¶ For if my wyt had byn so good
when as you past me bye,
To haue declared what I was
and eke my mysterie:
I had not felte the halle of this
whiche now I vyd sustayne,
But syth the thyngewas past of it
to talke it is but hayne.

CMy freind Archelans Altagus sayde
to god gyue praysse alwaye,
Who hath you helped in your cares
vnto this present daye?

And looke what thyngē there lyeth in mee
demaunde and you shall haue,
My lyfe and goods I will not space
you my freinde for to saue.

Cif that you wyl abyde in Roome
and dwell here byll with mee,
My house, my goods, my landes and all
even as your owne shall bee:
In felowworp we will remayne
as longe we wonted were,
To ryde and go both daye and nyght
for you I will not spare.

CMy leuyng freind Archelans sayde
I thanke you hertelye,
For this your kyndnes to me shewed
of my parts unworthe:
But I intende to go agayne
my countrey to beholde,
If of your helpe and ayde therin
to crave I myght be bolde.

Call that is myne Altagus sayde
as I haue tolde before,
ye may comande now at this tyme
and shall do euer more:
And sith it is your mynde to go
into your owne countree,

yon

you shall have all the ayde and helpe
that can be made by mee.

Co haste I will prouyde therfore
an armee feare and stoute,
Whom I to Carthage wyl conducte
to hunte those rebells oute:
Not one of them there shall escape
vaponysed for the thyng,
So that all Carthage rounde aboute
of theyz deserte shall ryng.

Che Senate by auctorite then
theyz Romayne Hoste dyd call,
And twenty thousand men in array
they set both stonge and tall,
Whiche were on horsebacke peynfed well
for to resynte their foo,
And eke as many foote men stood
in redynes to goo.

Chagus tooke his leaue then of
Andromyca his Ladye,
And Irchelaus he dyd conducte
strayght unto Carthagye:
Where as by force of powre he slew
and ponyshed those that be,
Myght here or leaue by any meane
Irchelaus foes to be.

Cand those also whiche dyd dysdayne
to helpe him in his neede,
Hilagus ponyshed sundry wyls

A. iii. acordyng

accordynge to theyr meede:
And set hys freind Archelaus cheefe
in dygnitye to raigne,
Aboue those whiche in Cartbagre
the Cittie dyd mayntayne.

¶ Restorynge to hym all the lande
and goods he had before,
Agumented by the death of them
whiche hated hym before:
Now when Altagus had done thys
and set in quycst peace,
Hys deere freinde Archelaus whom
wyth goods he did increase.

¶ He made the Senatours all to sweare
obedyence for to gyue,
To his freynde Archelaus whyleste
he theare on earth dyd lyue:
And no man for to be so boulde
hys counsell to dysppse,
But take hym as he is, a man
both noble sage and wyse.

¶ Thys done and all thynges set at reste
the beste waye that myght bee,
He sayde freynd Archelaus nowe
come take your leaue of mee:
For I must needes to Roome agayne
myne armes to conuayre,
And you I shall not see no more
agayne thys many a daye.

¶ Ofreind Altagus Archelaus sayde

great kyndnes you have shewed,
On mee, and I may thyne my loue
on you right well bestowed:
I gyue you harty thankes therfore
no better mendes I make,
But looke what lyeth in me to do
I am redye for your sake.

CSease of those wordes Ifagus sayde
my louynge freinde mooste vere,
And better then your selfe let mee
not to your eyes appeare:
For thankynge mee in thys my Payne
now taken for your sake,
Is nothyng but as unto you
a spynyliude I shall make.

Cwhich is even as though my lefft hande
my ryght hand thankes shoulde gyue,
For seekyng helpe when it was hurte
the wounde for to relpue.
Wee are as one you knowe ryght well
and euer more will bee,
And looke what anye man doth for you
he doth it eke for me.

Cfor if one member the bodye so ayde
doth seeke with all indener,
To finde some redye for to heale
and cure hys Payne for euer:
Doth he ought but his duty then
even so my fr^ende haue I,
And still do whyle my life doth last
thongh for you I shalde dye.

Cin deede quoth Urchelaus then
of ryght it shoulde be so,
And syth it is your mynde so soone
to Roome warden ye will go:
The gods conduct you on your waye
accordyng to your mynde,
And sende you quyet passage that
no daunger you may fynde.

Commend me to your Ladys fayze
and thus I take my leaue,
With that he caste his armes abrode
hys frennde for to receaue:
He kyssed him sweetly then and sayde
farewell my hertes delyght,
Farewell my louyng frennde on whom
I thynke both daye and nyght.

Callagus kyssed hym also
with the lyke salutacion,
And said the hōse is redy, I haue
no longer delyberacion:
But must nedes now departe from you
the Gods ye helpe and guyde
And ther with all amongst the route
Upon hys hōse dyd ryde.

Cwho in shōrt space to Roime was brought
with great magnyscye,
And was receyued ioyously of
Andromyca his Lady.

Cfinis. q. C. Jenynges.

